

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: MERITEL GROUP INC

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Aumsville

Submitter: Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company

Comment: Respondent offers broadband service to 100% of the Applicant's proposed funded service area overlapping Respondent's service area. These speeds begin at 1.5 Mbps down/512 kbps up and go as high as 6.0 Mbps down/1.0 Mbps up. The characterization of this portion of the proposed funded service area as unserved is patently false.

Submitter: WaveDivision Holdings, LLC

Comment: WaveDivision Holdings, LLC ("Wave") is a facilities-based, terrestrial provider of high speed Internet, cable television and telephone services. Wave challenges the application of Meritel Group Inc. ("Applicant") for last mile funding because Applicant's proposed funded service area does not meet the requirement set forth in the Notice of Funds Availability to qualify as an "Underserved Area". The current aggregate broadband penetration in Applicant's proposed funded service area is approximately 68%, significantly greater than the 40% standard set forth in the NOFA. Additionally, in the portion of Applicant's proposed service area that is served by Wave more than 50% of the households have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service. Essentially 100% of the households in the areas Wave serves in the proposed funded service area have access to Wave's broadband services. Accordingly, NTIA and/or RUS must deny Applicant's funding proposal.